EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

As early as 1936 Alf Lombard, the distinguished Swedish specialist in Romance languages, introduced a Romanian language course at Uppsala, which he later transferred to Lund University (in 1938). Professor Lombard founded the Romanian Department of the Institute of Romance Languages and for five decades, until 1986, he gave it his full support as head of department (until his retirement in 1969), then as professor emeritus. Professor Lombard taught courses in Romanian language, literature and culture and advised BA and Ph.D. theses in Romanian studies. Since 1961, Romanian language has taught at Romanska Institutionen on equal footing with the other Romance languages (among which French and Italian already had a long-established tradition), with the consequence that students can now pursue a BA programme in Romanian studies, as well as enrolling in doctoral and postdoctoral programmes in the field. During the last years of his life, Alf Lombard, although retired, still advised BA and Ph.D. theses on Romanian language and literature.

One of the last students at Lund University who had the privilege to work on her Ph.D. thesis under professor Lombard's supervision was Coralia Ditvall, a Romanian who moved to Sweden as a teenager. Professor Lombard, who fully deserved his reputation as the most accomplished non-native speaker of Romanian, passed away in 1996 and Mrs. Ditvall completed her doctoral dissertation under the supervision of professor Susanne Schlyter who, thus, fell in love with Romanian culture and became yet another friend of Romania. By determination, perseverance and willingness to overcome all obstacles, Coralia Ditvall was able to ensure the continuity of the Romanian Department by taking over professor Lombard's work at Lund University and, a few years later, that of professor Eugen Lozovan at the University of Copenhagen. Placing herself at the forefront of innovative language teaching methods, Coralia Ditvall earned a well-deserved reputation at Lund University for her pioneering work in e-learning (*Language-studies on-line: Case-study "Romanian course-program at Lund University"*). Her original model of e-learning for the Romanian Studies programme was first introduced at Lund University, then at the University of Copenhagen. Since Mrs Ditvall's teaching method proved highly effective and achieved its objectives, her computer-assisted language course soon became known throughout and beyond the Scandinavian Peninsula. Enrolment numbers increased every year, with students from all northern Europe (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, etc.). The teaching-learning

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process also became increasingly complex, the students being granted the possibility to choose among different teaching levels, including a full BA programme. Thus, Lund University holds a prominent position in terms of implementing e-learning in a Romanian Studies programme (*the IT-based Romanian Studies*).

In 2002 Coralia Ditvall started a series of conferences in Romanian Studies at Lund University (*"Rumänska sektionens Konferens, Lunds Universitet"*). The conferences aimed from the very begining two distinct purposes: provide opportunity for academic debate and enable the students enrolled in Romanian courses to meet face-to-face, most of them for the first time, and take exams in a special section of the conference. All six conferences took place on the Isle of Marstrand, not far from Göteborg. To the genuine success of each of them contributed the special venue and perfect organization, as well as (and most importantly) the excellent quality of presentations and the increased participation of students enrolled in the e-learning Romanian Studies programme. The latest conference took place between the 3rd and the 5th of June, 2011. As suggested by its title, *"International Conference on Languages, E-Learning and Romanian Studies"*, the conference expanded its scope to include sections on Language and Literature Studies, E-learning and Romanian Studies. A more detailed presentation of this 6th edition of the conference can be found in the concluding section of this issue.

Having received the organizers' permission, "Dacoromania" publishes in its second issue of 2012 a selection of 12 papers on linguistics and related fields. Each of them was presented at the Marstrand Conference in June 2011 and can also be found online at *http://nile.lub.lu.se/ojs/ index.php/elears*. With one exception, the contributions and their abstracts are published in English. Their authors come from a vast array of countries: Sweden, the Solomon Islands, Russia, the USA, Spain, Japan, Romania, etc. The topics of the contributions are equally diverse: the history of Romanian linguistics, the relationship between Romanian and international linguists, the tradition of Romanian language teaching in Russia, the linguistic realities on some Pacific islands, translation studies etc. We have also included in this issue three articles in English authored by scholars from the Middle East on topics related to grammar and traductology. We deemed they belonged in this issue together with the papers delivered at the 6th International Conference organized by Coralia Ditvall and Lund University at Marstrand.